

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 SY-10 USSS-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 AID-20

PC-04 OMB-01 OC-06 CCO-00 RSR-01 INRE-00 /146 W

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O R 200750Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4278

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

CINCPAC POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 5318

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHAN COUP: SITREP 8, 1200 HOURS LOCAL, JULY 20

REF: KABUL 5305

1. SECURITY TIGHTENED IN KABUL EVENING JULY 19, AS EMBASSY INFORMED BY SERGEANT OF GUARD AT GATE THAT ALL FOREIGN PERSONNEL TRYING TO PASS THROUGH ROADBLOCKS IN CITY WOULD BE DETAINED UNTIL 0630 IN MORNING. ORDER APPARENTLY NOT ENFORCED. MORNING JULY 20 SITUATION REMAINS AS ON PREVIOUS DAYS. EARLY MORNING (7:30 AM) THREE-SECTION FLIGHT MIG-21'S MADE SEVERAL LOW PASSES OVER CITY, AS DID FLIGHTS OF HELICOPTERS AND SINGLE IL-14.

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2. CONTRADICTING PREVIOUS REPORT ON RECOGNITION, RADIO AFGHANISTAN BROADCAST EVENING JULY 19 REPORTED THAT ONLY USSR AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAD SO FAR GRANTED RECOGNITION TO NEW GOVERNMENT. REPORT STATED THAT NEW PRESIDENT OF STATE AND PRIME MINISTER OF REPUBLIC MOHAMMAD DAUD HAD RECEIVED SOVIET AMBASSADOR PUZANOV AND THAT SOVAMB SAID HIS GOVERNMENT, BELIEVING THAT "RECENT EVENT" WAS INTERNAL AFFAIR OF AFGHANISTAN, EXTENDED OFFICIAL RECOGNITION. SOVAMB FIRST SECRETARY GAVRILOV TOLD EMBOFF THAT USSR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYED MINIMAL CRITERIA AS BASIS FOR RECOGNITION NAMELY THAT (1) GOVERNMENT BE IN CONTROL OF COUNTRY (WHICH TO ALL REPORTS IT WAS) AND (2) THAT A GOVERNMENT BE CONSTITUTED (WHICH HE SAID PREVIOUS ANNOUNCEMENT OF DAUD IN CONTROL OF FOUR PORTFOLIOS SATISFIED). GAVRILOV (WHO ACCOMPANIED SOVAMB ON JULY 19 CALL ON DAUD) SAID DAUD LOOKED HEALTHY, DETERMINED AND OBVIOUSLY ON TOP OF SITUATION.

3. ALL INDIA AND PAKISTAN RADIO BROADCASTS MONITORED HERE EVENING JULY 19 REPORT INDIA HAS RECOGNIZED NEW REGIME. INDIAN AMB MEHTA TOLD EMBOFF EVENING JULY 19 THAT ALTHOUGH HE HAD RECOMMENDED HIS GOVERNMENT EXTEND RECOGNITION, HE HAD NO OFFICIAL WORD YET OF DECISION IN NEW DELHI.

4. GOVERNMENT DAILY KABUL TIMES JULY 19 TRANSLATED OFFICIAL TITLE MOHAMMAD DAUD AS "PRESIDENT OF STATE", NOT "PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC" AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED. "PEOPLES REPUBLIC" FORMULATION HEARD ON FIRST DAY OF COUP HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN USED SINCE "REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN" IS OFFICIAL TITLE. PRESS AND RADIO REPORTS CONTINUE TO CARRY STORIES OF PEOPLE "ENTHUSIASTICALLY" GREETING NEW REGIME.

5. GOVERNMENT HAS POSTED TROOPS AT BAKERIES AROUND CITY TO ENSURE PRICE AND QUALITY STANDARDS ARE MAINTAINED. SUGAR PRICES REPORTEDLY HAVE BEEN REDUCED FROM AFS 24 TO 16/KILO AND MEAT PRICES ALSO REDUCED. OBVIOUS INTENT IS TO OBTAIN SUPPORT COMMON PEOPLE FOR NEW REGIME.

6. FORMER POLICE OFFICER MININT TOLD EMBOFF REPORTS THAT MILITARY GOVERNORS HAD BEEN DESIGNATED FOR ALL 28 PROVINCES WAS IN ERROR. HE DID NOT DENY POSSIBILITY, HOWEVER, THAT MILITARY GOVERNORS HAD BEEN NAMED FOR SOME PROVINCES, FOR EXAMPLE, IN CONFIDENTIAL

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PAKTIA AND KANDAHAR.

7. BRITISH EMBOFF SAID HE UNABLE ACCOUNT FOR SOURCE OR VERACITY OF BBC REPORTS REGARDING SITUATION KABUT (E.G., THAT SARDAR ABDUL WALI WAS KILLED AND OTHER UNCONFIRMED STORIES). HE SAID REPORTS PROBABLY EMANATE FROM BBC CORRESPONDENT TEHRAN WHO PROBABLY OBTAINING UNRELIABLE REPORTS FROM IRANIAN GOVERNMENT SOURCE.

8. GERMAN AND PAK EMBASSIES REPORT THAT AFGHAN-PAK BORDER AT TORKHAM IS OPEN AND THAT PAKISTANI BUS TRAFFIC OPERATING BOTH DIRECTIONS. GERMAN EMBASSY REPORTS THAT ONE GERMAN CORRESPONDENT HERE DURING COUP HAS SUCCEEDED IN LEAVING AFGHANISTAN WITH COPY AND PICTURES. HE ADDED THAT TWO MORE GERMAN CORRESPONDENTS HAVE ARRIVED KABUL FROM PAKISTAN. CHICAGO TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT KIRK WILL ATTEMPT TO DEPART FOR DELHI VIA TORKHAM MORNING JULY 20.

9. KABUL EMBASSIES WITHOUT TELECOMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT REPORT THAT MINCOMM FACILITIES WERE MADE AVAILABLE JULY 19 TO TRANSMIT BOTH ENCODED AND CLEAR TEXT MESSAGES. PREVIOUS DAY THEY WERE ABLE TO TRANSMIT CLEAR TEXTS ONLY IN ENGLISH AND FRENCH. FACILITIES REPORTEDLY OPEN FOR INCOMING INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC.

10. MEMBERSHIP OF "CENTRAL COMMITTEE" OF NEW REGIME REMAINS LARGELY UNKNOWN. AMONG NAMES THAT CONTINUE TO CROP UP ARE DAUD'S BROTHER, MR. (PRINCE) NAIM; MAJGEN MOHAMMAD KARIM MOSTAGHNI, CHIEF INSPECTOR, MECHANIZED AND ARMORED UNITS, MND, KHAN MOHAMMAD KHAN, RETIRED ARMY GENERAL AND FORMER GOVERNOR, JALALLABAD; GENERAL ABDUL RAZAQ, FORMER AIR FORCE COMMANDER; SENATOR MOHAMMAD ASEF, RETIRED FORMER AIR FORCE COMMANDER; GENERAL SAYED HASSAN; RETIRED FORMER ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF;

GENERAL MOHAMMAD REASUL (RETMAN DAUD'S FORMER CHIEF OF INTELLIGENCE; AND HASSAN SHARQ, DAUD'S FORMER PERSONAL AIDE. ALL ARE EITHER KMER CRONIES OR PROTEGES OF DAUD DURING HIS YEARS AS PRIME MINISTER; AND MOST ARE DAUD'S CONTEMPORARIES IN AGE. WHAT IS LACKING (FOR BOTH OURSELVES AND MOST AFGHANS HERE) ARE NAMES AND IDENTITIES OF YOUNGER MILITARY OFFICERS WHO REPORTEDLY DIRECTED COUP AND ARE PLACED IN CHARGE OF KEY MILITARY POSITIONS AROUND CITY, WHO MIGHT RECEIVE INSTRUMENTAL

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POSITIONS WHEN GOVERNMENT MORE FULLY FORMED.

11. AMONG CIVILIANS BEING MENTIONED AS LIKELY CANDIDATES FOR HIGH GOVERNMENT POSTS ARE : NIAMATULLAH PAZHWAQ, SHAFIQ'S MININT; ABSUL RAHMAN PAZHWAH (UNCLE OF NIAMATULLAH), FORMER AFGHAN PERMREP TO UN, JUST RETURNED KABUL, ABDULLAH MALIKYAR, AFGHAN AMBASSADOR WASHINGTON; NASRATULLAH MALIKYAR (NEPHEW), MINCOMM UNDER SHAFIQ AND ZAHIR GOVERNMENTS; AND ABDUL HAKIM TABIBI, FORMER AFGHAN AMBASSADOR NEW DELHI AND RECENTLY DESIGNATED UN PERMREP.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, MARTIAL LAW, RECOGNITION, ARMED FORCES, MILITARY PERSONNEL, SECURITY CONTROLS, PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KABUL05318
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS NEUMANN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730721/aaaaaoyk.tel
Line Count: 165
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 KABUL 5305
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <06-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AFGHAN COUP: SITREP 8, 1200 HOURS LOCAL, JULY 20
TAGS: PINT, AF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005